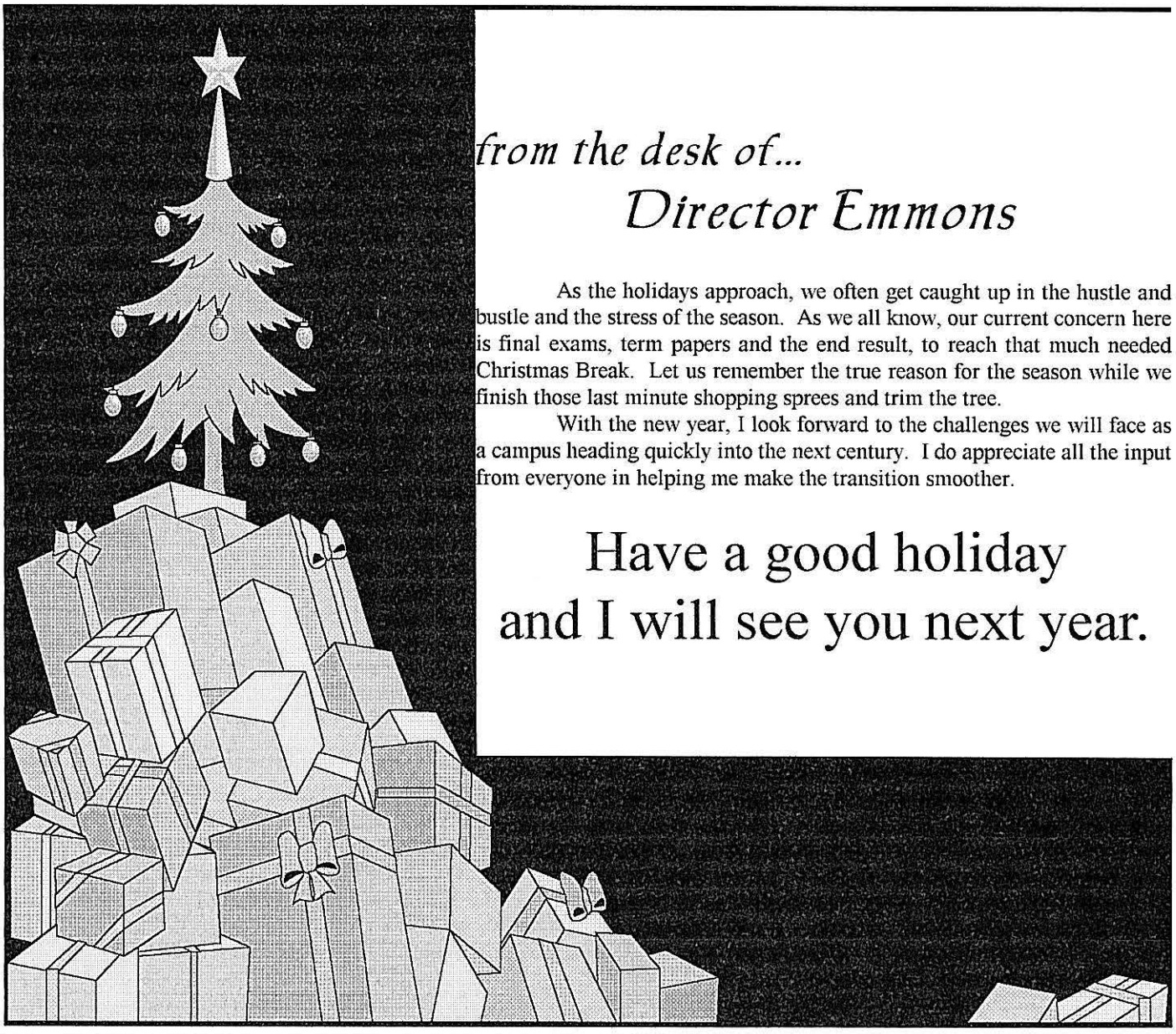
MSC MONITOR

Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College

Volume 1, Issue | Palmer, Alaska | December 13, 1995

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



from the desk of...
Director Emmons

As the holidays approach, we often get caught up in the hustle and bustle and the stress of the season. As we all know, our current concern here is final exams, term papers and the end result, to reach that much needed Christmas Break. Let us remember the true reason for the season while we finish those last minute shopping sprees and trim the tree.

With the new year, I look forward to the challenges we will face as a campus heading quickly into the next century. I do appreciate all the input from everyone in helping me make the transition smoother.

Have a good holiday
and I will see you next year.

To all my faithful readers (all ten of you): I am looking forward to the holiday break from my classes, however, I want everyone to know that Shelia, the staff and I will be working hard over the Christmas break to put out another issue of the MSC Monitor on January 8th, 1996 (this should allow me enough time to put all my hair back in). I am looking forward to seeing all of you again in the New Year. Happy Days, Hey-hey-hey, and a Bah-humbug to all of you!

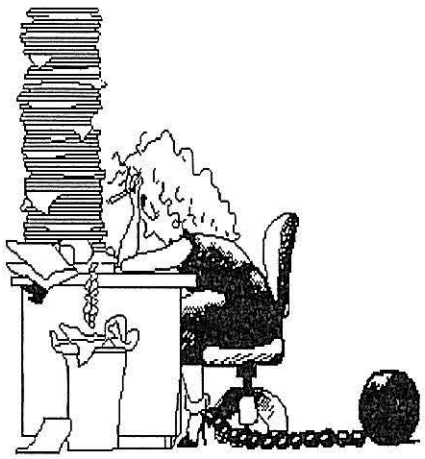
Student Government

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 19, 1996 at 4:30 in room 108. We would like to convey our appreciation for your response to the student fee survey. We are given a more realistic idea of what you want by your response. If you have any questions or comments contact Michelle at the Student Government office or call 745-9759.

See you next semester.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE MSC MONITOR IS JANUARY 5TH. PLEASE HAVE ANY SUBMISSIONS, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ETC. IN BY THAT DATE, OR THEY WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED!



MSC Monitor Staff

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Reporters	Shelia Keyser
	Amy Menerey
Guest Columnists	Joseph Emmons

The Monitor welcomes guest columnists and letters to the editor. Submissions will be printed according to space available, and must include name & phone number for verification. These can be placed in the blue Monitor box outside the office, dropped in the Student Govt./Monitor office or mailed to the MSC Monitor, P.O. Box 2889, Palmer, AK 99645. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, grammar, spelling and libel.

Positions Open
MSC Monitor

Student Newspaper of Mat-Su College

Art Reporter: Report on all art related activities at Mat-Su and UAA, as well as upcoming related outside events; reviews and criticism, cover art club meetings. Must be involved in the arts, any medium, with knowledge of basic principles of method and design.

Student Government Reporter: Report on all aspects of student government: meetings, committees, etc. Must attend meetings regularly, cannot hold a position.

News Reporters: Research and investigate news around campus and the valley. A good ear and a quest for information a must.

Interviewers: Interview teachers, faculty, and students. Write biographies. Take polls.

Guest Columnists: Anyone wishing to report on any of the above subjects, or any other subject of interest, may do so as a guest columnist.

Submit applications or articles to Student Gov't/Monitor office, leave in our box, or write via VAX, PSAJM.

Letters to the Editor

Response to Sue and Joe

Dear Sue Reed, thank you for your response to our critique of the art display. I must say that I appreciated you hearing what I had to say. Again, I would like to reemphasize that our main disagreement with the art faculty was that the display was placed where it was. I would also like you to know that I lost two very dear friends for stating my opinion; this hurts me because I would not have cut a friendship over an opinion thing...I thought people could have different opinions and still be friends.

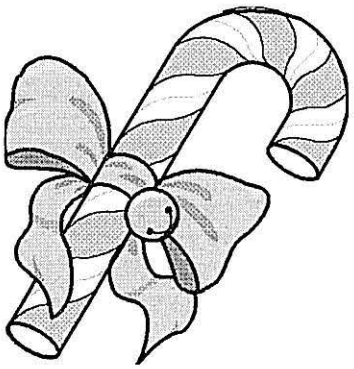
Mr. Pelletier, I feel that you did not address the problem we were disturbed with at all. I think "acquiescence" is the word that describes my sentiment on this issue: it means quiet, or silent agreement; to accept or comply tacitly or passively; the day I do that, I will have given up my right to be an American.

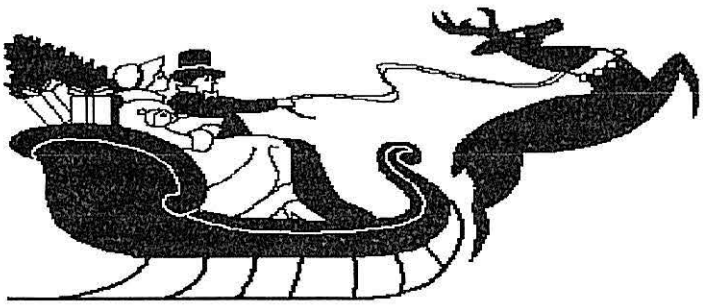
Since when has FSM (the new building) been the "art building"? The display case where the nude art was placed was in front of the Admissions and Records Office; it is now being used for admissions material. You answered the Halloween problem very inadequately I think: there are five entrances to MSC. On any given day I attend MSC, I choose the most convenient door to enter—I do not understand why you think parents, who may have had to park in the far parking lot, should have known beforehand which door to use!

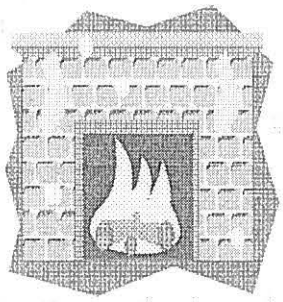
Although you addressed the Halloween problem, you neglected the new daycare to be put right past the art display. In fact, I think you have skirted the issue entirely. You speak of responsibility, we were speaking of appropriateness and the right of the art department to decide what is appropriate. Appropriate is not the enemy of freedom, and for some reason, I thought I had this right to free speech; a right to say what I thought. I also thought I had free will until I cross another's rights. I think the art department does not have the right to choose for me what they think I should see: AND THAT IS WHAT THEY DID. THEY CHOSE AND WE PROTESTED WHAT THEY CHOSE. I think I am intelligent enough to decide standards for myself—I don't think the art department can decide for me! This is my school; I have a say in what goes; I have a part in setting standards; I am responsible.

I have brothers and sisters who will secessively attend MSC after me for TWENTY YEARS! I understand responsibility very well, and for one, if I don't speak up, then I am responsible: I think I am intelligent enough to decide standards for me and my family. If I don't say anything, then I believe I am agreeing. This is my opinion, and I have been bitterly responsible for it. There have been people murdered, in sight of twenty on lookers who could have stopped it, and they would not take any responsibility; I will not do that.

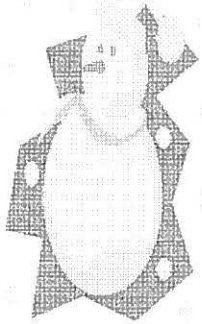
Carrie Lee Shafer







Christmas Roots



by Shelia Keyser

In my search for the history of our holidays I found lots of information on the biggest holiday of the year. I hope you find some of this interesting.

The word comes from the Old English term Cristes maesse, meaning "Christ's mass." This was the name for the festival service of worship held on December 25th to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. While it is accepted that Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem a few miles south of Jerusalem, there is no certain information on the date of his birth, not even of the year. One reason for this uncertainty is that the stories of his birth, recorded in the New Testament books of Matthew and Luke, were written several decades after the event. And those who wrote of it gave no specific dates for the event.

For several centuries the Christian church itself paid little attention to the celebration of Jesus' birth. The major Christian festival was Easter, the day of his resurrection. Only gradually, as the church developed a calendar to commemorate the major events of the life of Christ, did it celebrate his birth.

Because there was no knowledge about the date of Jesus' birth, a day had to be selected. The Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Rite churches within the Roman Catholic church chose January 6th. The day was named Epiphany, meaning "appearance," the day of Christ's manifestation. The Western church, based at Rome, chose December 25th. It is known from a notice in an ancient Roman almanac that Christmas was celebrated on December 25th in Rome as early as AD 336.

In the latter half of the 4th century, the Eastern and Western churches adopted each other's festival, thus establishing the modern Christian 12-day celebration from Christmas to Epiphany. In some places the 12th day is called the festival of the three kings

because it is believed that the three wise men, or magi, visited the baby Jesus on that day, bringing him gifts.

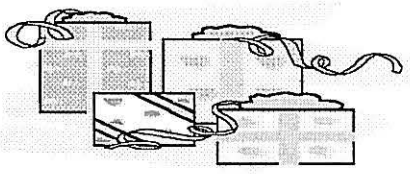
Today Christmas is more than a one-day celebration, or a 12-day festival. It is part of a lengthy holiday season embracing at least the whole month of December. In the United States the holiday season begins on Thanksgiving Day and ends on January 1st.

The reason for this extended holiday period is that Christmas is no longer only a religious festival. It is also the most popular holiday period for everyone in countries where Christianity has become the dominant religion. Even in Japan, where Christianity is in the minority, Christmas has become a festive, gift-giving holiday time.

People who live in the cold winter climates of North America and Europe look forward to a "white Christmas," because snow is one of the features associated with the holiday season. But Christmas is also celebrated in South America, Australia, and New Zealand places where it is summer at Christmastime and also places with year-round warm climates. Each place where the holiday is celebrated has developed its own attitudes toward the occasion and has created customs that try in many ways to express the meaning of the day.

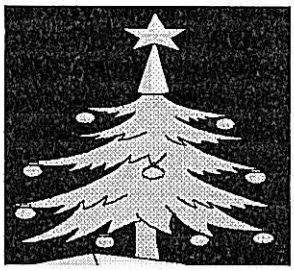
Over the centuries a significant number of customs and traditional observances have emerged to make the Christmas season one of the most colorful and festive times of the year. Probably the most universal custom is gift giving, frequently associated with the person of Santa Claus. Other customs have to do with decorating evergreen trees, lights, wreaths, and holly; the sending of cards; good and plentiful food and drink; and the singing of carols.

Gift giving is one of the oldest customs associated with Christmas: it is actually older than the holiday itself. When the date of Christmas was set to fall in December, it was done at least in part to compete with ancient pagan festivals that occurred about the same time. The Romans, for example, celebrated the Saturnalia on December 17th. It was a winter feast of merrymaking and gift exchanging. And two weeks later, on the Roman New Year January 1st, houses were decorated with greenery and lights, and gifts were given to children and the poor. As the Germanic tribes of Europe accepted Christianity and began to celebrate Christmas, they also gave gifts.



In some countries, such as Italy and Spain, children traditionally do not receive gifts on December 25 but on January 5, the eve of Epiphany. In several northern European nations gifts are given on December 6, which is the feast of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children.

Ancient, pre-Christian winter festivals used greenery, lights, and fires to symbolize life and warmth in the midst of cold and darkness. These usages, like gift giving, have also persisted. The most splendid symbol of a modern Christmas is the brilliantly decorated evergreen tree with strings of multicolored lights.



The use of evergreens and wreaths as symbols of life was an ancient custom of the Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews, among other peoples. Tree worship was a common feature of religion among the Teutonic and Scandinavian peoples of northern Europe before their conversion to Christianity. They decorated houses and barns with evergreens at the new year to scare away demons, and they often set up trees for the birds in winter. For these northern Europeans, this winter celebration was the happiest time of the year because it signified that the shortest day of the year about December 21st had passed. They knew the days would start to get longer and brighter. The month during which this festival took place was named Jol, from which the word yule is derived. Yule has come to mean Christmas in some countries.

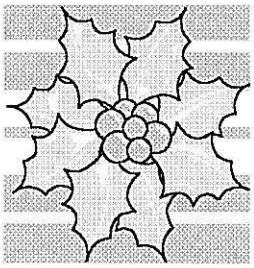
The modern Christmas tree seems to have originated in Germany during the Middle Ages. A main prop in a medieval play about Adam and Eve was a fir tree hung with apples. Called the "Paradise tree," it represented the Garden of Eden. German families set up a Paradise tree in their homes on December 24th, the feast day of Adam and Eve. On it they hung wafers, symbolizing the bread distributed at the celebration of the holy eucharist, or communion, in churches. Because the Christmas holiday followed immediately, candles representing Christ as the light of the world were often added to the tree. Eventually cookies and other sweets were hung instead of wafers.

In the same room as the tree Germans kept a Christmas pyramid made of wood, with shelves to hold figurines. The pyramid was also decorated with evergreens, candles, and a star. By the 16th century the pyramid and the Paradise tree had merged, becoming the Christmas tree so popular today.

The Christmas tree was introduced into England early in the 19th century, and it was popularized by Prince Albert, the German husband of Queen Victoria. The trees were decorated with candles, candies, paper chains, and fancy cakes that were hung from the branches on ribbons.

German settlers brought the Christmas tree custom to the American colonies in the 17th century. By the 19th century its use was quite widespread. Trees were also popular in Austria, Switzerland, Poland, and Holland. In China and Japan, Christmas trees were introduced by Christian missionaries in the 19th and 20th centuries. There they were decorated with intricate paper designs.

The use of evergreens for

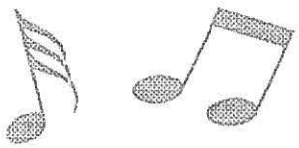


wreaths and other decorations arose in northern Europe. Italy, Spain, and some other nations use flowers instead. Holly, with its prickly leaves and red berries, came into holiday use because it reminded people of the crown of thorns worn by Jesus on the way to his execution, the berries symbolizing droplets of blood.

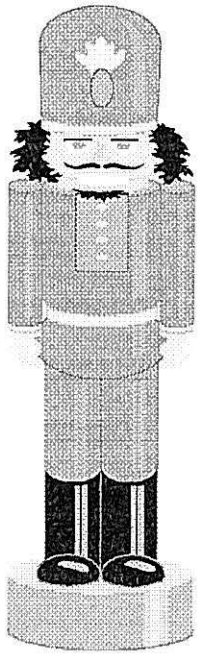
The first Christmas greeting card is believed to have been designed in England in 1843 by an artist named John C. Horsley for a friend, Sir Henry Cole. The design showed a family party, beneath which the words "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You" were inscribed. The practice soon became popular in all English-speaking countries and is most widespread in the United States.

The range of Christmas music, both sacred and nonreligious, is large, from the majestic oratorio 'Messiah' by George Frideric Handel to the lighthearted "Here Comes Santa Claus." The most popular of nonreligious tunes is probably Irving Berlin's "White Christmas," written for the movie 'Holiday Inn', released in 1942.

The most traditional Christmas songs are carols. The word carol was associated with dance and open air. It later came to mean simply a joyful religious song. In France the term is noel, and in Britain nowell. Best known of modern carols is "Silent Night, Holy Night," composed in Austria by Franz Gruber in the 19th century. Other popular carols include "The First Nowell," "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "Away in a Manger," and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."



There is a story by the 19th century German writer E.T.A. Hoffmann entitled "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," which inspired a ballet 'The Nutcracker', with music by Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky. It is often performed at the Christmas season.



A custom that originated in southern Europe is the manger scene, often referred to by its French name, creche. This is a small model of the stable where Jesus was born, containing figures of Mary, Joseph, the infant, shepherds, farm animals,, and the three wise men and their gifts.

The custom is said to have been started by St. Francis of Assisi. On a Christmas Eve in 1224 he is supposed to have set up a stable in a corner of a church in his native village with real persons and animals to represent those of the first Christmas.

Apart from the many ingredients that go into making the Christmas season a festive and happy time for people around the world, the day itself and the religious observances that highlight it remain the focal points. One of the most colorful and solemn celebrations of the holiday takes place in the village of Bethlehem, which is in the modern state of Israel.

On Christmas Eve a long line of people wind through the narrow streets. At its head march church dignitaries, priests, and attendants, all in magnificent robes. They carry a tiny, gilded, wicker cradle containing a wax image of the infant Jesus. At the old fortresslike Church of the Nativity they pause as each worshipper stoops to enter the low door into the sanctuary. The people gather in the Roman Catholic chapel of St. Catherine for the celebration of a midnight mass. Pilgrims from all parts of the world participate. The ceremony ends when the patriarch of Jerusalem carries the image of the Christ child to the ornate glass and marble manger in the Grotto of the Nativity under the church.

Few themes have inspired so many great paintings, poems, and stories as the Christmas narrative and the ways it is commemorated. The manger scene has been the favorite subject of master painters such as Fra Angelico, Giotto, and Sandro Botticelli.

The religious theme inspired John Milton's poem, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity." The Santa Claus story was put into verse in 1822 by an American, Clement Moore.

Entitled "A Visit from St. Nicholas," it is more commonly known by its first line: " 'Twas the night before Christmas."

The American short-story writer O. Henry (the pen name of William S. Porter) wrote a touching Christmas tale about a young husband and wife entitled "The Gift of the Magi." In a more humorous vein, the children's writer Dr. Seuss (the pen name of Theodore Seuss Geisel) has written 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'. The story has been made into a motion picture cartoon and is usually televised every holiday season.

Of all the stories relating to Christmas, none is better known or more popular than Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. As a book, it has been read and reread by millions of people in the last 100 years. It has also been turned into a drama performed on stage, radio, and television every year. The last name of its leading character, Ebenezer Scrooge, has come to stand for unloving, selfish, and miserly individuals. And the ending of the story, after Scrooge has mended his ways, presents a meaningful combination of the religious and nonreligious nature of Christmas.

Excerpted from Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia

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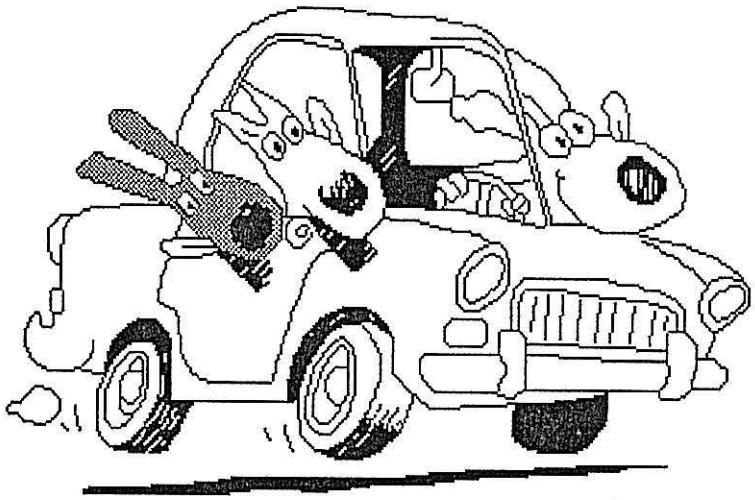
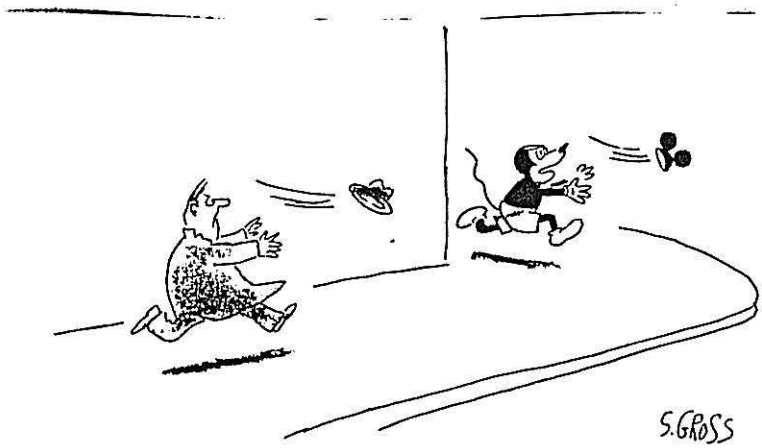
Cartoon Cache

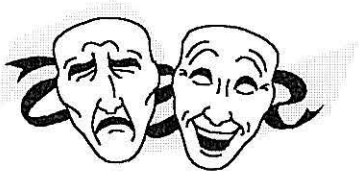


This holiday season.....
Don't be a bonehead! Don't Drink and Drive!!
Keep your puppies sober!!



HOW WINDY WAS IT? IT WAS SO WINDY THAT MICKEY MOUSE..

ART ABOUT



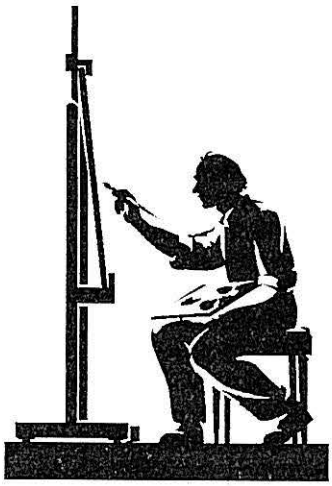
THEATER

"Under 30" – Out North, Jan. 4-9, Out North Theater

"The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" – Valley Performing Arts, Jan. 12-28, Alaska State Fairgrounds, Palmer

Jazz Residency with Judy Austin — Jan. 8-Feb. 15. Alaska Dance Theatre Studios

"STOMP!" — Anchorage Concert Association. Jan. 23-28. Alaska Center for the Performing Arts



VISUAL ARTS

"Patrick, Manson & Mohr" — January, International Gallery of Contempory Art

"Darkened Water: Profile of an Oil Spill" — 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster, Jan. 7-Feb. 18, Anchorage Museum

"All Alaska Juried Art Show" — biennial exhibit, Jan. 14-Mar. 10, Anchorage Museum

Annual Holiday Pottery Sale and Studio Open House — Dec. 16, 12-8pm and Dec. 17, 12-6pm at the Birch Grove Studios, end of Johnson Road in Big Lake, call 376-5816 for more info

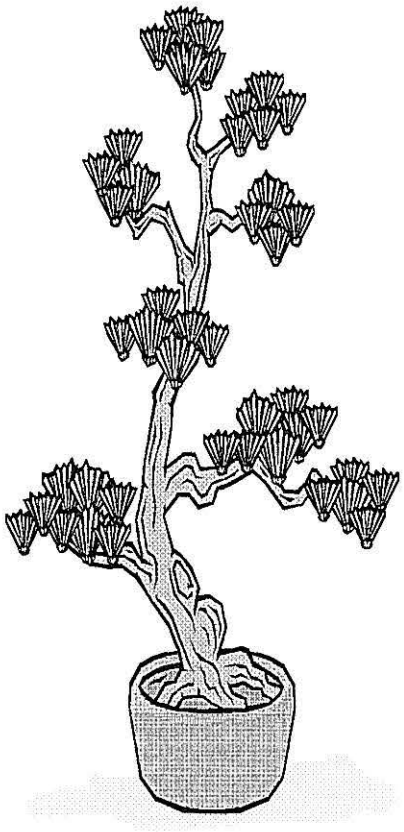
"3 Rooms" — Installation by Don and Julie Decker,
Series of Portraits — Carol Crump Bryner,
through the month of January, both at the Stonington Gallery

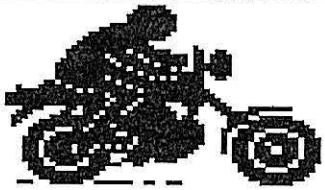
MUSIC

Leontovych String Quartet — Anchorage Concer Association, Jan. 7, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

"POPS!"— Anchorage Symphony Orchestra, Jan. 13, Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

Anchora ge tar ibo — african-caribbean percussionists, jan. 13, Vagabond Blues, Palmer





Aurora Racing, Inc
2nd Points Race
Klondike Inn, Big Lake 12-10-95 Results

PRO MOTORCYCLE

1. Kraig Riese	2,1,1
2. Dan Nicoll	1,2,4
3. Jerry Mucha	3,3,2
4. Oliver Unruh	4,7,3
5. Tim McKittrick	8,4,5
6. Troy Redinius	6,5,6
7. Mike Ronald	7,6,7
8. David Roseveare	5,8,8

250 MOTORCYCLE

1. Lance Leneave	1,2,1
2. Oliver Unruh	2,1,2
3. Ralph Blanchard	3,3,3

4 STROKE MOTORCYCLE

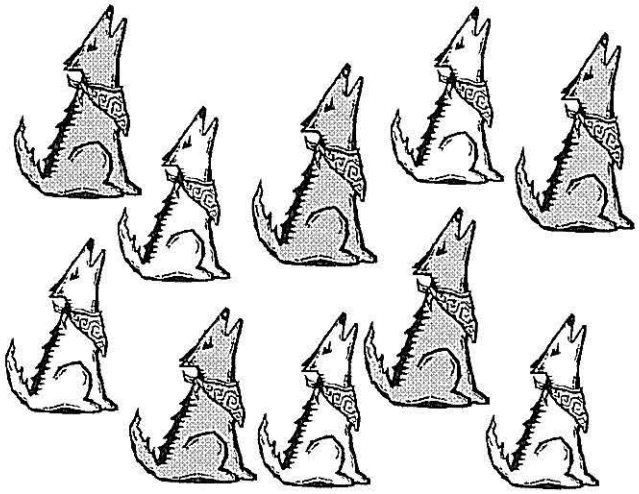
1. Kraig Riese	1,1,1
2. Kent Eslinger	2,2,3
3. Mark Eslinger	3,4,4
4. Paul Noga	5,3,6
5. Bill Lewis	6,5,5
6. Jerry Mucha	4,DNC,2

AMATEUR MOTORCYCLE

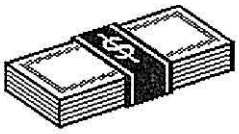
1. Verdelle Bontiager	1,1,1

ATV

1. Mike Donald	2,2,1
2. Dave Gardner	1,1,3
3. Todd Rupert	3,3,4
4. Bob Minich	DNF,4,2
5. Dave Elliot	DNF,DNS,DNS



AURORA INTERNATIONAL, INC.
BIG LAKE, ALASKA
300 MILE SLED DOG RACE
K300 AN IDITAROD QUALIFIER



$25,000
PLUS PURSE

START JANUARY 20TH, 10AM
AT THE KLONDIKE INN

RACE COURSE: BIG LAKE - GOOSE BAY (TUG BAR) - SKWENTNA - PETERSVILLE (FORKS ROADHOUSE) - TRAPPER CREEK - SHEEP CREEK LODGE - HOUSTON LODGE - BIG LAKE (KLONDIKE INN)

THE KLONDIKE 300 SLEDDOG RACE SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20, 1996 IS NOW ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE AURORA INTERNATIONAL, INC., PO BOX 52058, BIG LAKE, AK 99652 OR CALL 892-6261, FAX 892-6445. THE FIRST TO SIGN UP FOR THE RACE WAS THE 2 TIME IDITAROD CHAMPION MARTIN BUSER FROM BIG LAKE. OTHERS WHO SIGNED UP FOR THE RACE WERE NICOLAS PATTARONI AND BOB WELCH. OTHER WELL KNOWN MUSHERS TO SIGN UP ARE JOHN BARRON, LAST YEARS WINNER, AND LEVON BARVE, CHARLES BOULYING, VERN HALTER. WE EXPECT TO HAVE AT LEAST 50 TEAMS SIGNED UP BY JANUARY 5, 1996, THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION. ACCORDING TO MARTIN BUSER, " THE KLONDIKE 300 SLEDDOG RACE CAN BECOME THE PREMIER MID-DISTANCE SLEDDOG RACE IN THE NATION."

THE SPORTS PAGE

poetry corner

what is a friend?

by Dancing Feather X

What is a friend,
If a friend can't take,
If a friend can't bend,
If a friend can't make,

A mistake in an instant,
When she didn't know all,
A little trip up,
Took a long fall?

What is a friend,
Who can't speak her mind,
Who can't say an opinion,
And be a little blind,

For a moment in the wrong,
When she didn't catch a hint,
Cuts ties of long,
Seeming friendship?

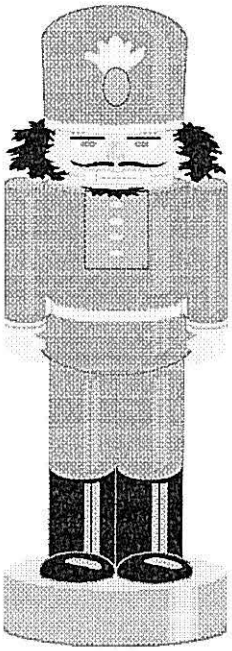
What is a friend,
When a friend can't wait,
When a friend can't bend,
Can't be late.

If a friend can't be wrong,
If a friend isn't trusty,
If the bond isn't strong,
If the tie is so rusty?

Then count me out please,
I don't want friends,
If they're all the above,
My trust I won't lend.

But if a friend can share,
Opinions freely state,
Then maybe I would dare,
And another risk take.

If friendship is for growing,
Sharing, learning, knowing,
Then I'm the first for owning,
Count me in.



BATTLE HYMN OF FINALS

Mine eyes have seen the horror
Of the ending of the term
It has poisoned all my spirits
Like an apple with a worm
It's infected all my freedom
Like an ugly cancer germ
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth shall be known.

I have listened to the teachers
But the homework leaves me cold
I have never done assignments
Although many times been told
I have even missed my classes
When I was feeling bold
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Repeat

They are adding all my points up
And I haven't earned but few
In fact, I haven't even gotten
More than one or two
Oh, if I could only find an answer
Anything to do
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Repeat

On the lines of every gradebook
There is solumn news for me
The worst is yet to come when
Financial Aid ignores my plea
So I guess the only answer is
To drop my books and flee
The truth shall soon be known.

Chorus: Repeat

Well, the end has finally come
And I have failed to pass a class
Though the fun and laughter, goofing off
Was really quite a gas
But I won't be in the numbers
Of the capped and gowned mass
The truth was finally shown.

Chorus: Failure, failure, degradation,
Failure, and humiliation,
Failure, failure, academia,
The truth was finally known.

From the Internet<Humor@UGA.CC.UGA.EDU>

REGISTRATION INFO

Registration will continue after Christmas Break through January 16, 1996 The add- drop date will be January 29 for full semester classes.

CAMPUS HOURS

The Campus will be closed December 22 at 5:00 p.m. and will January 3 at 8:00 a.m.

For that last minute gift idea, gift certificates can be purchased at the Mat-Su cafeteria and Tsunami Coffee Company, various amounts available

EXTRA, EXTRA

Annual Christmas Ball Tickets

Last chance to buy tickets for the Student Government Annual Christmas Ball to be held December 15th. This is the biggest student event of the year, don't miss out. Tickets are being sold in the Student Government office. Tickets may be available at the door. The night's festivities will feature dinner with all the fixins', a D.J. for dancin', and Santa will be making a special appearance!

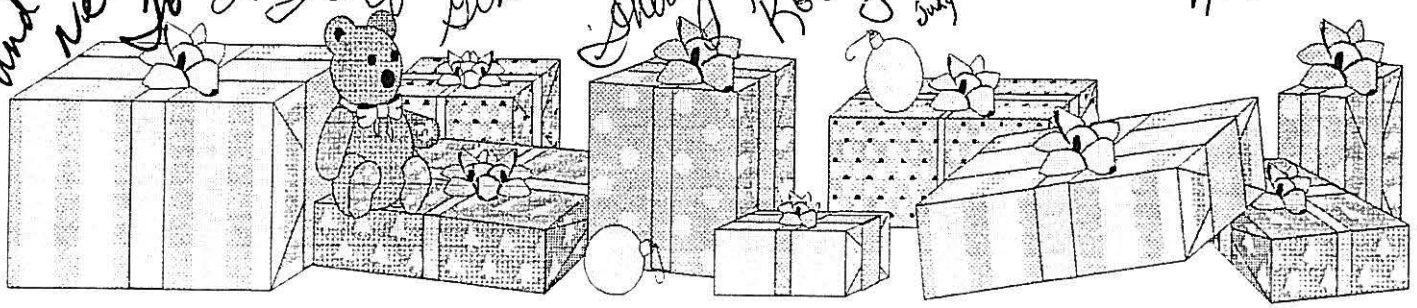
Library Holiday Hours

Monday thru Friday 9 am - 5 pm
December 18th - Deember 22nd
and
January 3rd - January 15th
Closed
December 23 - January 2nd

ATTENTION!!

A reminder that students are in jeopardy of losing their Financial Aid eligibility if their their grades are not turned in to A&R on time and posted no later than 4:00pm December 22, 1995. To prevent studnets form experiencing this unhappy occurrence, the Grade Rosters must be turned into A&R no than later December 20, 1995.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM YOUR MSC FAMILY



Merry Christmas
Carl

Best wishes for the coming year!
Bette Belanger
Administrative Secretary

Grace Wilson - Lawton
Legislative affairs Rep/Govt.
Mat-Su Student Rep.

Happy Holidays
Al Shean

Thanks for all expressions
Your Patronage & Support
Have a Wonderful Holiday. = Happy Holidays
Paula Holley
Student Council Vice-President

Enjoy this special
Season Dd Dt

Happy Holidays
Thank K. Wirle

We project a Happy New Year and continued Grade Inflation
Merry Christmas
& Best wishes for the new year
Donald Robert AtK

Victoria A. Cole

Have a safe, happy, joyous season.
Barb Carney.

Happy Holidays
Kevin Lykken

Merry Christmas
Jonnie K. Hodder

Very Happy Holidays
Joseph Emmons

Merry Christmas and a Happy 1996 from the Akeson Library!
Lizzy Jo Gini Sherry Kerry Judy

Have a HAPPY Holiday and a SUCCESSful new year -
Jane K-J

Tsunami Coffee
Thanks
Mike Dunn

Merry Christmas
Tom Lawton

Merry Christmas
Kim Sorensen

Merry Christmas
Kim Sorensen

Merry Christmas
Kim Sorensen